

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 07028 121050Z

20

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0772

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, LA

SUBJECT: LAO AID-SEEKING MISSION

1. PGNU FOREIGN MINISTRY AT OFFICE-DIRECTOR LEVEL HAS CALLED IN CHIEFS OF MISSION (IN OUR CASE, ON SEPTEMBER, 12, EMBOFFS REPRESENTED AMBASSADOR) TO REQUEST THAT POTENTIAL DONOR COUNTRIES ISSUE OFFICIAL INVITATIONS TO THE AID-SEEKING MISSIONS AND TO SET FORTH FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS:

A) MISSIONS WILL BE SEEKING IMMEDIATE SUPPLEMENTAL AID AND WILL VISIT POTENTIAL DONOR COUNTRIES ONLY IF PGNU IS ASSURED IN ADVANCE THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE WILL BE FORTHCOMING; AND

B) PGNU REQUESTS THAT COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED PAY EXPENSES OF DELEGATIONS DURING THEIR STAYS AND ALSO PAY TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR RESPECTIVE SECTIONS OF EACH MISSION'S ITINERARY.

2. FONOFF OFFICIAL (SOMCHIT PHILATHIVONG, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION) MADE CLEAR THAT FONMIN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO PRESENT POSITION OUTLINED ABOVE. HE ADDED THAT, AS WE KNEW, MINISTER OF DEFENSE SISOUK WOULD LEAD MISSION WHICH EXPECTED TO VISIT WASHINGTON, AND EXPRESSED HOPE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 07028 121050Z

THAT WASHINGTON STOP COULD BE MADE AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT

DATE BEFORE END OF CY-74.

3. EMBOFFS PROMISED ONLY TO REPORT FONMIN POSITION, NOTING THAT SISOUK WAS WELL AWARE OF U.S. BUDGETARY PROCESSES AND OF UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING DATE FOR FINAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON ADMINISTRATION'S AID REQUESTS FOR FY-75. THESE CONSIDERATIONS, PLUS FACT THAT OUR AID PROGRAMS IN LAOS ARE LONG-ESTABLISHED AND CONTINUING, MEANT THAT IN ANY CASE OUR RESPONSE TO APPEAL BY AID-SEEKING MISSION WAS LIKELY TO DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY FROM RESPONSES OF SOME OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: WE SHALL CHECK WITH OUR DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES, WHO HAVE PRESUMABLY RECEIVED THE SAME PTICH, AND SUBMIT PROMPTLY OUR RECOMMENDATION FOR A USG REPLY. OUR INITIAL REACTION TO PGNU'S CONDITIONS-IF THAT IS WHAT THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED-IS DISTINCTLY UNFAVORABLE.
WHITEHOUSE

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